



Office of the City Manager

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October 15, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

Dear Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners Baker, Clyburn, Copps and McDowell:

As the City Manager of Lawton, Oklahoma, I am writing to express my concern regarding your recent remarks on net neutrality and the proposal for net neutrality regulations.

Lawton, Oklahoma now enjoys a 3G network as part of a national trend of investment to bring faster speeds and better service to communities of all sizes. Advanced broadband allows entrepreneurs to innovate, professionals to work from home, and levels the playing field within the American economy, no matter your zip code. Faster broadband deployment – and faster broadband networks – depends on achieving the highest possible level of investment from broadband providers. Up to \$350 billion in new investment will be needed to achieve universal broadband in the United States.

Yet net neutrality regulations will put the brakes on this vital investment by injecting government into the management of our nation's networks.

Neutrality slows deployment of networks; discourages investment in those networks, and discourages the innovation that has done so much to help communities of all sizes take advantage of the next generation of the Internet. Under a net neutrality regime, Lawton may not see additional investment dollars to continue to improve our local network's capabilities.

Net neutrality regulation is the wrong path. Instead, we encourage the Commission to adopt policies that will promote investment and innovation, not harm them.

Respectfully,

Larry Mitchell
City Manager